

Ohio State School for the Blind Newsletter

March 2014

Cynthia M Johnson Superintendent

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OSSB Gets Creative!

Ms. Kathleen Canalos

The OSSB Art Room has been a very busy place the last few months. We truly were "hands-on" when K-12 students created a large hanging banner for OSSB's

Dedication Ceremony. Using the school colors of red, white & blue we added an array of inked handprints, blocked lettering, felt cut-outs, and "Panther" paw prints to the 9 foot long design. Freshman, Taylor designed and painted an exotic, glittering Halloween mask; quite mysterious and impressive. Students worked hard crafting Thanksgiving Turkeys out of cardboard, adding gem-like bits of tissue paper and vintage buttons for feathers and wings. We prepared holiday wrapping paper from ink blocks, sponges and paper rubbings, developed hand weaving techniques using paper and cardboard looms, spaghetti string and yarn.

OSSB students in K-12 created all the parts and pieces of a "Frosty Village," which was displayed prominently in the new OSSB lobby. Many staff members contributed merchandise boxes which students either painted or crayoned over, adding chimneys, puffy smoke, trees, snowmen and a skating pond to great visual effect. It was a lovely vision to behold and an OSSB community success. A portion of the Frosty Village can still be seen,

as Mrs. Brown has graciously allowed us display space in the library.

Due to water damage, art classes are being held in a learning space across the hall. We look forward to returning to the new Art room soon.

Seven OSSB High School students participated in a very important research study this winter. The purpose of the study, conducted by Educational Testing Services in New Jersey, was to determine whether students scored better on reading tests that were administered using embossed or hard copy braille, or whether refreshable braille displays were a better way to go. The results of this study will impact how future tests are given to braille readers across the country. We are proud that OSSB could be a part of this very important research!

Mrs. Finley

Save the Date May 4-7, 2015

OSSB students in 9th-12th grades during the 2014-2015 school year are welcome to travel to St. Louis! It will be an educational trip, where students will be introduced to riding a light rail system and will visit Forest Park to use the shuttle. While visiting Forest Park, students will have the chance to visit the St. Louis Zoo, Missouri History Museum, St. Louis Art Museum, Boathouse, Art Hill, St. Louis Science Center or Jewel Box.

Students may visit Blueberry Hill, ride a riverboat on the Mississippi, visit the City Museum and take the Journey to the Top of the Arch!

All students are asked to contribute \$200 towards hotel, transportation and food.

Questions?

Contact Mrs. Swartwout at mswartwout@ossb.oh.gov or Mr. Nixon at knixon@ossb.oh.gov

Reading Is Fun with the OLBPD!

Mrs. Janell Brown

The Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled also known as "OLBPD" would like to invite students to join their exclusive reading club for kids and teens. Students who are registered to receive braille and talking books, magazines, or download items using BARD are eligible to join this free club as part of their library service with OLBPD.

Students will receive an official membership certificate and an ID badge. When members read books they will earn credits toward new membership levels. OLBPD's goal is simple: they want to make reading fun at any age but especially now! If students are 11 years old and younger they can join the OLBPD Kids Reading Club while students between the ages of 12 and 18 can join the OLBPD Teens Reading Club.

Please let your teachers or school librarian know that you want to join or contact OLBPD for more information or to sign up by phone, call 1-800-362-1262.

Students Chosen to Perform at OSU!

Mrs. Carol Agler

OSSB students, Yaqi of Columbus, and Leeann of McArthur were selected to participate in The Ohio State University Middle School Honor Band Festival on Saturday, February 15, 2014. Over 350 7th and 8th grade students from 147 Ohio schools participated in this full day of rehearsals, culminating in a performance open to the public that afternoon.

There were 4 honor bands in this event. Yaqi (trumpet) was in the 7th grade Scarlet Band conducted by Nancy Youse and James Swearingen. Leeann (flute) was to be in the 8th grade Scarlet Band, but was snowed in and unable to participate this year. The day included five rehearsals and a 4:00 p.m. concert in Mershon Auditorium. At the concert, Mr. Swearingen conducted his work "Of Time and Change" in its WORLD PREMIER! Congratulations to these fine young ladies chosen to represent the Ohio State School for the Blind!

Winter Olympics at OSSB

Mrs. Chris Ross

Many of our students experienced the Winter Olympics up-close and personal this year while at OSSB! The speech & language room transformed into Olympic Village during February. Over a three week period, winter Olympic sports equipment started appearing. Snow replaced the beans in the sensory table! Students who visited the Olympic Village tried on skis, stood on a snowboard, hit a hockey puck with a hockey stick and made snowballs in the nice warm room! Ask your child if they visited the Olympic Village and what they learned! As an extension activity, ask your child the following questions about the Winter Olympics. Have fun and watch for the speech & language room to turn green in March!

- ✓ Where were the 2014 Winter Olympics held?
- ✓ What is the weather like in Russia during the winter?
- ✓ What are a few sports in the Winter Olympics?
- ✓ Why do the Winter Olympics need to be in a cold place?

- ✓ How are snowboarding and skiing similar?
- ✓ How are snowboarding and skiing different?
- ✓ How could hockey be adapted for people who are blind or visually impaired?
- ✓ Invent your own sport!! Would it be in the Summer Olympics or Winter Olympics? What would you call it?

OSSB Joins USABA/Wellpoint Challenge

Mrs. Alison Brewer-Wood

The Ohio State School for the Blind is proud to announce that we will have approximately 30 students participating in the 2014 United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) Wellpoint Foundation National Fitness Challenge. Students who signed up will receive a Nike plus FuelBand SE that they will wear until November 30th, 2014. Look for more information about this challenge in the next newsletter.

Interactive Hobo Museum with Mrs. Cary Saxton

If you overhear a young OSSB student talking about jumping freight trains and living in a hobo jungle camp, don't be alarmed! They are probably just discussing their recent visit to a museum exhibit created by our 11th and 12th graders. In an effort to enrich their background knowledge about the Great Depression and the several thousands of people who hit the open road at that time, (in preparation for reading John Steinbeck's classic *Of Mice and Men*) the 11th and 12th grade English class created a multimedia museum exhibit. An immense amount of hard work and research went into each of the students' contributions. Here's what they had to say about it.

Billy: For my part in the museum I made a 3D audio environment that painted the picture of what it would be like to jump a train. I gave instructions on how to go about jumping a train. The clip contained train horns, a country road, and footsteps... lots and lots of footsteps as I ran to "catch the train". It was sort of a test of

patience, but it was also realistic. I used a gadget called a headphone star. It let me plug in 5 headphones at a time so 5 kids could listen all at once. Not only did it show kids how to jump a train, but it somehow made them not want to jump a train... I'm not really sure how this happened, but it did. Maybe it was the minute and a half of running I put in it. The kid's reactions were awesome! When the train came, their faces lit up.

Jerrimia: I made a hobo camp and sat in it, pretending to be a hobo. It had five trees and chairs and a fire made of cardboard. I told kids what it was like on the road and why they should stay in school. I played the guitar like a hobo would. I had clothes, pots and shoes hanging from the tree, just like how it was in real hobo jungles. I told the kids how I ran away from home and hopped trains. The kids really enjoyed visiting my camp.

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Kelsey: I decided to write a journal that explained the life of a girl during the Great Depression. She had to leave home, because her parents did not have enough money to support her. She had to learn how to jump on a train, and get past the fact that she felt alone, and no one was there to help her. She had to experience being caught on the train, by the bulls. (A bull was a railroad guard who patrolled the railyards looking for hobos. Often they would shoot them or throw them in jail) The bulls took all the money that she had. After getting off the train, she went to find a café to get some food. During the 1930s people were not very accepting of people that were homeless, so it was no surprise when the girl went into the café that the waitress was rude to her.

It is very dangerous to jump on a train while it is moving, so a lot of tragic things happened. A friend that she met at the beginning of her journey was trying to jump on the train, but she missed and fell. At the end of the journal she writes about how she ends up with a job in California. She explains how it was terrible during

those 7 years, but she knows that better things will come. To complete this project, I researched letters and journal entries from people that actually lived during the 1930s, and I wrote the journal so it could be read in print and braille.

Brandon: For my project of the museum I made an audio clip about the back story of a hobo and a movie about a hobo and his father reconnecting. The reason I chose to create a video is to show the viewers how the hobo felt about his life and his journey. In the movie the main character's name was hobo Brandon. He was at a café when he met a man whom he did not know. By the end of their conversation he found out the man was actually his father, Jim. Hobo Brandon was abandoned by his family and left to explore the world. In the end he ended up reconnecting with his father and they lived happily ever after. In the movie I played hobo Brandon and the father was played by Billy. The technology that I used to make the movie was an iPad with the program called iMovie. The best part about this whole project was to show people that not all hobos are terrible people and

that sometimes they have challenges that they cannot overcome and they became homeless.

Ariel: For my part of the museum I decided to write two letters to show students and staff what some hobos had to do, and what they might have said in letters to their families. While researching, I read some letters from hobos in the 1930s. When I began to write the letters, I decided to act like I was a teenager who was leaving home. I was talking about how I left and then what I did. I also wrote a story about a friend that I met on the trains. I told about finding a job on a farm, what I did on the farm and how the place that I lived in was so small.

OSSB Wrestlers Take To The Mat

Coach Jeff Shaw

Five OSSB students participated in wrestling this year. This year's wrestling championships were held in

Louisville, Kentucky. Selvin, a sixth grader, place 4th at the NCASB conference championships, Ethan, a junior, placed 3rd along with Thomas, a freshman placing 3rd. Brandon, a junior placed 2nd, and Donald a sophomore placed 1st pinning all of his opponents. In the team competition, Indiana School for the Blind placed first, Tennessee School for the Blind second, Arkansas third, Kentucky fourth, and Ohio was sixth. Congratulations to all the wrestlers, it was a great season.

Free Assistive Technology Conference!

Out of Sight: Assistive Technology

Conference for Parents,

Students Who are Blind or Visually

Impaired, and

The Professionals Who Serve Them

Saturday, April 5, 2014

LOCATION: Educational Service Center of Central Ohio (ESCCO)

2080 Citygate Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43219

Saturday, April 5, 2014 from 8:45 am - 3:30 pm.

Registration, continental breakfast, and vendor exhibits open at 7:45 am.

Assistive Technology vendors focusing on braille literacy, low vision aids, writing, reading, communication, math, science and more will be available all day to demonstrate products and answer your questions.

Breakout sessions with in-depth, hands-on information.

Box lunches will be provided in order to allow a working lunch with Exhibitors and Speakers.

Free and open to parents, students who are blind or visually impaired, and the professionals who serve them.

Registration is free, however, attendees must register in advance. A registration form is available on the CISAM website at

<http://cisam.ossb.oh.gov/ProfessionalDevelopment.php>.

If you have any questions, contact Lauri Kaplan at lkaplan@ossb.oh.gov or 614-728-1567 or Julie Pashovich at jpashovich@cisamoh.org or 614-644-8386.

Please send completed registration by *March 27, 2014* to:

Julie Pashovich at jpashovich@cisamoh.org;

Fax: 614-644-8254; or mail to Julie Pashovich, CISAM,
5220 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43214.